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LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and further to my numerous letters on the subject, the most recent of which was that circulated as document S/1995/78, I have the honour to inform you that aircraft of the United States and its coalition partners are overflying a number of heavily populated cities and industrial sites in Iraq at low altitudes and breaking the sound barrier. The breakage of glass panes set in windows and doors by the strong shock waves produced when the sound barrier is broken causes material damage and human casualties. United States aircraft have broken the sound barrier numerous times in the recent past, as follows:

1. At 1305 hours on 11 January 1995 United States aircraft flying at low altitudes broke the sound barrier over the State Enterprise for the Petrochemical Industries in Basra Governorate. The shock waves produced by this action caused certain equipment to malfunction.

2. At 1800 hours on 11 January 1995 a United States aircraft flying at low altitude broke the sound barrier a number of times over Basra and its nearby townships.

3. At 1525 hours on 22 January 1995 United States aircraft flying at low altitudes broke the sound barrier over the city of Nasiriyah in Dhi Qar Governorate. This action was repeated at 1530 hours.

That United States aircraft are continuing to break the sound barrier at low altitudes in order to frighten peaceable women, children and elderly persons provides repeated evidence of the persistence of the Government of the United States of America in causing harm to Iraq and its people and in encroaching on its security and sovereignty.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq protests in the strongest terms against the persistence of these acts of aggression, and it requests you to intervene and to take those measures required of you under the Charter of the United Nations in order to halt these actions and prevent their future recurrence.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative